

LOCAL FAMILY COUNCIL

Washington State Penitentiary



4/10/2010 08:00am

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT:

Associate Superintendent, Mark Kucza

Investigator, Antonia Alvarado-Jackson

Lt. Lynn Clark

CPPC, Linda Finn

Paris, Fidel, Kristen, Maritza, Raul, Phyllis, Patti, Stephanie (accompanied by three children)

State Wide Family Council members Nicole Brummitt & Christy Warner, and Stacie by teleconference

OLD BUSINESS

■ PHONE LINE

Key Points/Discussion: Referring to the handout, discussion was held concerning the troubleshooting contact numbers concerning the phone systems at WSP. Toni Alvarado –Jackson explained that trouble calls are received in the I and I Department and processed. It was suggested that these troubleshooting numbers will be posted on bulletin boards in the check in and visiting areas. JoAnna Howard Account Executive for FSH Communications, contact number will be added to these flyers. Inmates having trouble with the phones, dropped calls or trouble hearing, should dial #57 from the phone that the problems are occurring on. Mr. Kucza stated that stickers to be placed above pay phones with contact numbers, is in the process of being made and will be distributed when completed. Nicole and Christy will be creating an informative flyer that will detail the difference between prepay and debit calls, that will be posted along with the contact information for VAC.

Next Steps: Post flyers with appropriate instructions and contact numbers.

Person Responsible: Investigator, Toni Alvarado-Jackson and Tech Support.

■ RECRUITMENT FOR ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

Key Points/Discussion: Christy Warner and Nicole Brummitt shared with the group their experiences when they came on March 13, 2010, and visited all three visiting areas. They stated they were able to travel to each occupied visitor table and briefly discuss the Local Family Council purpose. They stated they were treated respectfully by all staff and family alike. Some suggestions made were:

- Better use of available space-to increase the number of visitors to the visiting rooms would be in the best interest of the facility. To accomplish this, the institution could possibly look at acquiring some smaller tables to accommodate perhaps just a couple (two individuals) who are visiting, instead of the larger 4 chair tables that are presently utilized at the West Complex.
- Children's area, in West Complex particularly, needs to have more child-friendly toys and furniture. Play areas must be monitored by the adult visitors. Visitors with children should be seated at a table near the play area, to be in close contact with the children at all times.

- Strategically place bulletin boards in the visiting rooms for informational purposes. Christy and Nicole passed out samples of flyers they created with information on the Local Family Council which could be posted on the bulletin boards. Information that is posted on the bulletin boards should also be made available for individuals to take home as to use the information to its fullest potential.

Next Steps: Look into suggestions made and obtain by financial obligations.

Person Responsible: Lt. Lynn Clark and Captain Robert Piver.

NEW BUSINESS

■ **COMMUNICATION FROM RICHARD MORGAN - POLICY 590.160**

Key Points/Discussion: The letter contained in the packet from Mr. Morgan was discussed concerning the new DOC Policy 590.160. The age limit was of concern to sanctions of the attending family members. Family members were particularly troubled that a regular visitor, who is under 18- years- of- age, will not be able to participate in the religious events under the revisions outlined in the policy. It was explained by individuals who attended meetings involving the drafting of this policy, that the ages of visitors were a concern. The 18 year limit was set due to the fact that at that age they are considered adults. One of the family members asked if they could possibly write an appeal to have the age limit lowered. It was suggested that they send their letter(s) of appeal to Greg Garringer, Religious Program Manager.

Next Steps: Family members will send in their appeals.

Person Responsible: Concerned family members.

■ **LEVEL SYSTEM**

Key Points/Discussion: Mr. Kucza explained the Earned Incentive Program (OM 320.415). This program was developed as a tool to control violence and for everyone's safety. It is meant to encourage positive behavior and discourage negative behavior. Offenders are assigned a level when they arrive at the West Complex. Level 2 is the level they begin at and they can apply to Level 1 through their counselor. Level 2 offenders have access to certain program activities; Level 1 offenders have access to extensive program activities. Since this program has been implemented, incidences of violence have decreased.

Next Steps: Post on the DOC-WSP web site

Person Responsible: WSP personnel

■ **FAMILY EVENTS.....XX**

Key Points/Discussion: Multiple events were discussed at this time.

- Date Night – An event that would allow couples to watch a movie and have a snack in the visiting rooms. This will be for adults only and during a non visiting day. Details e provided as they become available.
- Mother's Day – On May 2, 9, and 16, 2010 in the visiting rooms the following will be available: Light refreshments, a free photo of visitors/family members will be taken and participants will receive a picture frame kit, that individuals will be able to construct, which will be distributed when they receive their photo. Picture frame and picture will be taken home with the visitor/family member as they exit the visiting session.

- Family portraits – This program is in the process stage. Inmates and their family will an opportunity to have a family portrait taken by a professional photographer. More specific details and dates have not been determined.

Next Steps: Continue working on events planned for the future.

Person Responsible: CPPC, Linda Finn, Lt. Lynn Clark and Captain Robert Piver

Additional Steps: Create a flyer displaying portraits that have been a product of this program in other facilities.

Person Responsible: Christy and Nicole

ADDITIONAL TOPICS AND INFORMATION

Lt. Clark shared with the group plans to paint murals on the walls of the West Complex Visiting Room. He asked family members if they had any suggestions for specific displays to email Linda Finn with their suggestions. Inmates will be the artists working on this project.

Lt. Clark also shared with the group that two Wii game bundles were purchased. These game consoles will be set up in the East and West Complex Visiting Rooms. Lt. Clark and his staff are presently working on details for monitoring these games. These games will be utilized by an inmate and his minor aged visitor, the program is meant to be an interactive event between an inmate and family member/visitor.

Family members stated that they really appreciated the Valentine kit activities and the Easter theme cookies and gift packets. They thought they were a wonderful idea.

It was discussed to hold the Local Family Council meetings every other month on the first Saturday of the month. This will follow closely behind the statewide council meetings, also to hold the Local Council meetings in one location. It has not been determined at this time where that location will be.

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, June 5th, 2010